



Fine Japanese Art (JAP0621)

Fri, 4th Jun 2021

Viewing:

You may view objects in this auction in our gallery from 25 May to 4 June, 2021. We are open Monday to Friday from 10 AM to 6 PM CET, as well as by appointment. On the day of the sale, the preview will be open from 10 AM to 1 PM. FFP2 masks are required.

Lot 109

Starting price: €5000

Estimate: €10000

KOSHINSAI HARUHIDE: A MAGNIFICENT GOLD LACQUER TEBAKO AND TRAY WITH SCENES FROM THE NIKKO TOSHO-GU

By Koshinsai Yoshikawa (art name Haruhide), signed Koshinsai Haruhide with seal Yoshikawa
Japan, 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

The accessories box of typical rectangular shape with rounded corners, a flush fitting cover with silver rims, and a footed tray inside, each lavishly lacquered in rich gold with various techniques such as takamaki-e, hiramaki-e, kirikane, nashiji, and togidashi-e, depicting various scenes from the Toshō-gu shrine in Nikko.

The cover shows the three sacred storage houses (Nikko Toshōgu Sanjinko) nestled amongst tall cryptomeria trees, as well as the famous architectural elements depicting imaginary elephants (sozo-no-zo). The inside of the cover shows the five-story pagoda of the Nikko Toshō-gu from afar, amongst many trees and dense mist emulated by nashiji-lacquer, all below the silver-inlaid moon. The outside of the box shows various idyllic landscape scenes in Nikko. The tray shows the famous red Shinkyō bridge in Nikko below towering pine trees. The inside and underside of the box, as well as the underside of the tray of dense nashiji.

The inside of the cover with the lacquered artist signature KOSHINSAI HARUHIDE and with red seal YOSHIKAWA. The artist is listed in the Index of Inro Artists by E.A Wrangham on page 150 as Koshinsai Yoshikawa.

SIZE 22.7 x 17.7 x 10 cm

Condition: Very good condition with only very minor wear to lacquer and minuscule losses, particularly around the edges.

Provenance: Old Swiss private collection formed in the 1940s/50s.

The Nikko Toshō-gu is a highly important Shinto shrine dedicated to Tokugawa Ieyasu, the founder of the Tokugawa shogunate, which ruled Japan from 1603 until the Meiji Restoration in 1868. Together with Futarasan Shrine and Rinno-ji, it forms the Shrines and Temples of Nikko UNESCO World Heritage Site, with 42 structures of the shrine included in the nomination. Five of them are designated as National Treasures of Japan, and three more as Important Cultural Properties. Hundreds of stone steps lead through the

cryptomeria forest up to the grave of Tokugawa Ieyasu, where a bronze urn contains his remains.

The subject matter and exceptionally fine quality of lacquer work may indicate this *tebako* was made by imperial decree.

Auction comparison:

For a lacquer *Kodansu* of similar quality and depicting the same subject matter, see Christie's, The Joseph Collection of Japanese Art, 11 November 2015, London, lot 8 (**sold for 37,500 GBP**).